

Amendments to the Claims

This "Listing of Claims" replaces all prior versions of claims in the subject application:

1. (Currently Amended) A process for the recovery of an organic acid from a fermentation broth comprising the steps of:

(a) conducting a fermentation to produce a fermentation broth, wherein the fermentation broth comprises an organic acid and microbial biomass;

(ab) ~~drying said organic acid-containing~~ fermentation broth to obtain an organic acid-containing dried product, wherein said drying occurs without prior removal of ~~insolubles~~ said microbial biomass from said organic acid-containing fermentation broth;

(bc) adding said organic acid-containing dried product of step (ab) to a lower alcohol in the presence of an acid, wherein said acid can be any acid which allows for selective recovery of the desired organic acid; and

(ed) removing insolubles to obtain an organic acid, wherein the insolubles include the microbial biomass.

5. (Previously Amended) The process of claim 1, wherein in step (b) the concentration of said organic acid added to said lower alcohol is from about 50 g/L to about 100 g/L.

6. (Previously Amended) The process of claim 1, wherein in step (a) drying comprises spray drying said fermentation broth.

7. (Previously Amended) The process of claim 1, wherein in step (b) the reaction temperature is from about 25° C to about 60° C.

9. (Previously Amended) The process of claim 1, wherein in step (b) about 1.2 equivalents of said acid is present.

10. (Previously Amended) The process of claim 1, wherein in step (b) said lower alcohol is selected from the group consisting of methanol, ethanol, propanol, butanol and glycol.

11. (Previously Amended) The process of claim 1, wherein in step (b) said acid is selected from the group consisting of sulphuric acid, nitric acid, hydrobromic acid, hydrochloric acid and phosphoric acid.

12. (Previously Amended) The process of claim 11, wherein in step (b) said acid is sulphuric acid.

13. (Previously Amended) The process of claim 1, wherein in step (c) removing insolubles comprises filtration.

14. (Original) The process of claim 1, wherein said organic acid comprises lactic acid, 2-keto-L-gulonic acid, citric acid or gluconic acid.

15. (Original) The process of claim 14, wherein said organic acid is 2-keto-L-gulonic acid.

16. (Previously Amended) The process of claim 1, further comprising esterifying said organic acid of step (c) to the corresponding ester.

17. (Previously Amended) A process for the recovery of an organic acid from a fermentation broth comprising the steps of:

(a) drying said organic acid-containing fermentation broth to obtain an organic acid-containing dried product, wherein said drying occurs without prior removal of insolubles from said organic acid-containing fermentation broth and said dried product contains all of the biomass;

(b) adding said organic acid-containing dried product of step (a) to a lower alcohol to obtain an alcoholic suspension;

(c) adding an acid to said alcoholic suspension of step (b), wherein said acid can be any acid which allows for selective recovery of the desired organic acid; and

(d) removing the insolubles to obtain an organic acid.

21. (Previously Amended) The process of claim 17, wherein in step (b) the concentration of said organic acid added to said lower alcohol is from about 50 g/L to about 100 g/L.

22. (Previously Amended) The process of claim 17, wherein in step (a) drying comprises spray drying said fermentation broth.

23. (Previously Amended) The process of claim 17, wherein in steps (b) and (c) the reaction temperature is from about 25° C to about 60° C.

24. (Previously Amended) The process of claim 17, wherein in step (b) said lower alcohol is selected from the group consisting of methanol, ethanol, propanol, butanol and glycol.

25. (Previously Amended) The process of claim 17, wherein in step (c) about 1.2 equivalents of acid is added.

26. (Previously Amended) The process of claim 17, wherein in step (c) said is selected from the group consisting of sulphuric acid, nitric acid, hydrobromic acid, hydrochloric acid and phosphoric acid.

27. (Previously Amended) The process of claim 26, wherein in step (c) said acid is sulphuric acid.

28. (Previously Amended) The process of claim 17, wherein in step (d) removing insolubles comprises filtration.

29. (Original) The process of claim 17, wherein said organic acid comprises lactic acid, 2-keto-L-gulonic acid, citric acid or gluconic acid.

30. (Original) The process of claim 29, wherein said organic acid is 2-keto-L-gulonic acid.

31. (Previously Amended) The process of claim 17, further comprising esterifying said organic acid of step (d) to the corresponding ester.